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ABSTRACT

The first part of this book describes juvenile gangs in schools and provides information to help recognize gang presence. The second part focuses on effective interventions to deal with the gang problem. An introduction describes the history and current status of youth gangs in the United States to set the stage for the subsequent exploration of gang characteristics. Chapter 1, "District, School, and Classroom Characteristics," describes gang membership-promoting and membership-inhibiting characteristics of schools and suggests ways to enhance factors that discourage gang membership. Chapter 2, "Signs and Symbols," describes and illustrates signifiers of gang membership. In chapter 3, "Becoming a Gang Member," the process of joining a gang and some of the reasons adolescents and young adults join gangs are described. Chapter 4, "Ethnic Gangs," reviews the formation of gangs based on ethnicity and highlights the role of the school in educating potential gang members. Chapter 5, "Gang Violence," outlines the nature and sources of gang violence and its diversity of expression and suggests its impact on society at large. Chapter 6 begins the discussion of effective intervention by considering "Desirable Program Characteristics." In chapter 7, "Controlling the School Environment," school responses to the gang presence, including facilities modification and security practices, are discussed. Chapter 8, "In-School and Community Enrichment Solutions," focuses on enrichment as a supplement to control. The concluding chapter notes that the gang situation in the United States is not likely to improve without concerted efforts on the parts of schools and communities. (Contains 25 figures, 8 tables, and 164 references.) (SLD)

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